



California Department of Community Services & Development News Bulletin

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(1) Federal Budget Update

September 30, 1999 marked the end of the 1999 federal fiscal year (FY99) without a budget from Congress. President Clinton signed a measure to keep the government running for three additional weeks. This Continuing Resolution for federal spending keeps the federal government from shutting down. As of October 4, 1999 the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have now acted on their versions of the FY 2000 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education spending bills. Both bills would provide \$1.1 billion for LIHEAP plus \$300 million in Emergency Contingency Funds. The House bill provides that the entire funding be categorized as an "emergency designation" so that the \$1.4 billion would not "score" against budget caps. Next year, this designation could place LIHEAP funding at risk because it would be outside the normal budgetary process. The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor/Health and Human Services/Education voted to increase funding above fiscal year 1999 levels for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). The bill would boost the program by \$10 million, putting it at \$510 million for FY 2000. Both the House and the Senate Appropriation Committees have moved bills with \$133 million for the Department of Energy Low-Income Weatherization Program. The House version of the bill still has the mandatory 25% state match requirement, while the Senate version does not. The Joint Conferees will have to negotiate this difference in the bill. There is an ongoing effort to remove the mandatory match portion of the House version of the bill. At this time it is not clear when the Congress will finish action on the FY 2000 spending bills.

(2) Important Dates

Friday, October 29, 1999

The next LIHEAP SERVICE PROVIDERS COMMITTEE meeting will be held in Sacramento at KVIE Channel 6 on Capitol Oaks Drive. The meeting will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the "Ose" room at the television station. If you have any questions, please call Diane Logan at CSD. Her phone number is (916) 323-8697.

November 29 - December 2, 1999

Saint Louis, Missouri will be the location of the 1999 Department of Energy National Weatherization Training Conference. The conference is designed to provide technical training and management information to the weatherization network. The conference agenda is designed to strengthen the capabilities of weatherization agencies by addressing a myriad of interconnected energy efficiency issues in low-income dwellings. If you have any questions concerning the logistics of the conference, please call Geri Millman, D&R International, Ltd., at (301) 589-0100.

(3) News That You Can Use

CSD has completed and submitted its Y2K Business Continuity and Contingency Plan. The document may prove useful from the standpoint of an example of how your agency or organization could plan in the event of a Y2K disaster. CSD strongly recommends and encourages that you have a contingency/continuity plan of your own for the possibility of a Y2K disruption. However, planning of this sort could also be useful in other areas of disaster or disruption as well. If you would like a copy of CSD's Y2K Business Continuity and Contingency Plan, you can download it off the CSD home page @ www.csd.ca.gov or please call Bob Castaneda at (916) 323-8695 and request a copy.

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), through the Electric Education Trust Administrative Committee (EETAC), an advisory board of the CPUC, announced the issuance of a Request For Grant Proposal (RFGP). The CPUC/EETAC is seeking to award approximately \$4.2 million to nonprofit organizations throughout the State of California to conduct community education programs regarding electric industry restructuring to targeted populations. The RFGP was issued on October 1, 1999. To receive a copy, please call *GeM Communications* of Los Angeles at (323) 954-3777. There is a **NOVEMBER 1, 1999, 5:00 P.M. DEADLINE** for submission of proposals.

(4) CSD Contract News

Program Year 2000 CSBG and LIHEAP contracts were mailed to the service providers on October 1. Contractors are urged to complete their contracts accurately and return them as soon as possible to facilitate the issuance of advances prior to January 1, 2000.

CSD amended the **Mentor Program** contracts and allocated a total of \$1,100,750 in funding. The contracts were mailed from CSD on September 30, 1999. The amended contract term is from October 1, 1998 - September 30, 2000. CSD is planning to hold a mentor contractor workshop and the tentative date is December 7 or 8. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call Pamela Harrison at (916) 323-8687.

(5) CLASS Project Update

It is the goal of the California LIHEAP Automated Service System (CLASS) project to improve the overall efficiency and the operations of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. The project is a significant upgrade of service delivery by utilizing current technologies that enable LIHEAP service providers and the Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) to administer the grant and its services more efficiently. Six of CSD's LIHEAP contracting agencies are pilot contractors for the CLASS Project. Training of the remaining LIHEAP service providers is expected to begin October 25, 1999. CSD anticipates that full implementation of the CLASS project will be completed by November 19, 1999. CSD is also working internally to prepare training manuals and all the necessary planning to ensure a successful transition.

To further assist service providers in the implementation of the CLASS system, CSD has instituted a "Help Desk" in-house to provide technical assistance and problem resolution. The Help Desk will continue beyond the 1999 Program Year to further assist agencies as needed. Listed below are the CLASS Help Desk staff, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail addresses, and office hours:

Jason Wimbley, Help Desk Program Analyst
Mary Rhine, Help Desk Technician
Patsy Esposito, Help Desk Technician
Vernita Faison, Help Desk Technician
Anneliz Rodriguez, Help Desk Technician

Help Desk telephone number: (916) 324-8900
Help Desk fax number: (916) 319-5026
Help Desk e-mail address: CLASS@csd.ca.gov

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday
(8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

(6) Listing Of Useful Websites

CAA Board Members may benefit from extensive information and resources available on the 'Net. Below are some good websites, as potential follow-ups to the Board Training provided recently at NACAA's annual meeting in Chicago:

<http://www.ncnb.org/main.htm>

- National Center for Nonprofit Boards

<http://www.nonprofit-info.org/npofaq/keywords/1a.html>

- "Board of Directors," from Nonprofit FAQ

<http://www.mapnp.org/library/boards/boards.htm>

- Toolkit for Boards of Directors

<http://nonprofit.miningco.com/library/weekly/aa112297.htm>

- Information on Nonprofit Boards of Directors

<http://www.mncn.org/bdres.htm>

- Resources for Nonprofit Boards of Directors

<http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/bcafe.htm>

- BOARD CAFE: The Electronic Newsletter Exclusively for Members of Nonprofit Boards of Directors

<http://www.exlaw.com/thompson/>

- Strengthening Your Nonprofit Board of Directors

Note: First click on "Nonprofit Organizations (Charitable and Non-charitable)," and then on "Strengthening Your Board of Directors"

<http://www.rivernetnetwork.org/bdroles.htm>

- Roles and Responsibilities of Board Members

<http://www.tmcenr.org/toolintro.html>

- Nonprofit Assessment Tool Home Page

*** Note: These links will continue to be available on the Community Action Board Members' Forum that has been established at:

<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/commactionboardmembersforum>

COMMACTIONLIST -- A no-cost Internet Correspondence List serving anti-poverty Community Action Agencies and non-profit Community Development Corporations. If you wish to receive and participate in COMMACTIONLIST's daily flow of information, use the simple instructions provided below.

To subscribe or unsubscribe from COMMACTIONLIST:

1. Address message to: listproc@listserv.acf.dhhs.gov
2. Leave SUBJECT blank. If your system requires an entry, use: xxxxx
3. In Body of message, simply write either:
subscribe commactionlist Your First and Last Name
or
unsubscribe commactionlist

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(7) GRANTS / RESOURCES / NOTICES

Federal Register: Two locations on the Internet: (1) http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html and
(2) <http://www.gpo.ucop.edu/search/fedfld.html>

Aug. 30 -- 47309; Education; Grants in five areas of special education for FY 2000 competitions as authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Aug. 30 -- 47179; Education; Grants for vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities who are migrant or seasonal farm workers.

Sept. 1 -- 47842; HHS; Notice of reallocation of funds for the FY 1998 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Sept. 1 -- 48061; Treasury; Grants for the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.

Sept. 2 -- 48194; Labor; Grants for the Migrant and Seasonal Farm worker Youth Program.

Sept. 16 -- 50274; Corporation for National and Community Service; Grant for technical and administrative support for the President's Service Scholarship Program.

Sept. 21 -- 51114; Education; Grants for the Training Program for Federal TRIO Programs.

Sept. 22 -- 51331; HUD; Grants for the Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency (ROSS) Program.

Sept. 22 -- 51401; EPA; Grants for the Environmental Education Program to increase public awareness.

Sept. 24 -- 51765; HHS; Fiscal Year 2000 discretionary announcement for select areas of the Early Head Start Program.

Sept. 29 -- 52599; HHS; Grants for the Community Food and Nutrition Program for Fiscal Year 2000. The final file date is December 6, 1999.

California Commission on Improving Life Through Service Grants

The Corporation for National Service has a NOFA available for the following programs: AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and National Senior Service Corps. For a copy of this NOFA, please check their web site at <http://www.cilts.ca.gov/ciltsframe.html>.

Mark-to-Market Program Grants

The Amador-Tuolumne CAA will be in charge of handing out approximately \$3.9 million from HUD to community-based groups to aid housing tenants in three categories: Resident Capacity, Predevelopment, and Public Entity. The objective of the program is to preserve low-income rental housing affordability while reducing the costs of rental assistance. For further information, call Dianne Bennett at (209) 533-1397, ext. 225; e-mail atcaa@goldrush.com.

Health Services Grants

The California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) and the California Rural Health Policy Council (CRHPC) have announced funds to support health services for persons in designated rural areas. Funding will be for two programs: (1) CRHPC Rural Health Services (RHS) Small Grants Program, \$1,047,000, deadline is 11/5/99; and (2) OSHPD Rural Health Development (RHD) Capital Grants Program, \$2,000,000, deadline is 12/10/99. For further information, call either Ed Mendoza at (916) 654-1606 or Fred Johnson at (916) 654-2991.

Welfare Grants

HHS has announced that CAAs in four states (Alabama, California, Massachusetts, and Michigan) and Washington, DC may be able to access \$100 million in new welfare grants as part of a federal bonus program. Interested CAAs are encouraged to contact the California Health and Human Services Agency at (916) 654-3454 around October 1.

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Exchange of Industrial Resources

The National Association for the Exchange of Industrial Resources is accepting applications for membership to receive product donations, including clothing, computer software, office supplies, personal-care products, tools, and toys. Only nonprofits and schools may apply. For further information, check their web site at <http://www.misslink.net/naeir/naeir.htm>.

Conferences / Workshops / Meetings

National Summit on Community Food Security

October 14-15 -- This conference will be held in Chicago, and it will focus on building partnerships to fight hunger. There is no registration fee. For further information, call Crystal Penn at (202) 314-3465 or send an e-mail to crystal_penn@grad.usda.gov.

Western Alliance of Farm Workers Conference

November 1-2 -- This is the 9th Annual Training and Technical Assistance Conference to be held at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento. For further details, call the Western Alliance of Farmworkers Advocates at (916) 264-0207.

Computer Related

Miscellaneous Web Sites

<http://ciir2.cs.umass.edu/GovMot> -- U.S. Government Database search site

<http://netsite.esa.doc.gov/> -- Federal Forms - Click on Forms & Circulars; do a search of form number

<http://www.his.gov/index.asp> -- Indian Health Service providing federal health services to American Indians

<http://www.nonprofit.gov/> -- Link to 530,000 government web pages

<http://www.law.vill.edu/fed-agency/fedwebloc.html> -- Federal Web Locator for federal government information

Magazines / Publications

HUD Report on Housing

HUD has completed a report entitled "The Widening Gap: New Findings on Housing Affordability in America" on how the number of housing and apartments that families with low-wage incomes can afford to rent is shrinking. For a copy of this report, check HUD's web site at <http://www.hud.gov/pressrel/afford/afford.html>.

Odds And Ends

Rural Economic Development Study

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has prepared a report entitled "Strengthening Rural Economies: Programs that Target Promising Sectors of a Local Economy". The report examines how concentrating economic development efforts can expand economic opportunities and produce jobs. The report is free from <http://www.huduser.org/publications/econdev/commchnng.html> or \$5.00 from HUD at (800) 245-2691.

Summer Food Program

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) wants more CAAs to sponsor the Summer Food Service Program. They want to reach more eligible children than they currently do, which is only 1 in 5 children. The program reimburses groups for providing nutritious snacks and meals to low-income children and youth during summer months. To join the program, call the California Regional USDA Office at (415) 705-1310.

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Also sponsoring:

A. The on-line Community Action Career Center, at:

<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/communityactioncareercenter>

B. The on-line Community Action Technical Assistance Exchange, at:

<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/commactiontechassistexchange>

C. The Community Action Agency Board Members' Forum, at:

<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/commactionboardmembersforum>

(Note: If you encounter difficulty in accessing any of the above Message Boards, contact: <dmatthews@acf.dhhs.gov> for special assistance.)

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